

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

UNCLAS BOGOTA 5423

USIAC

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SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE MRS. CARTER'S VISIT

1. BOGOTA, JUNE 10 -- MRS. ROSALYNN CARLER TODAY
REAFFIRMED THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE GREAT HALL OF BOGOTA'S HISTORIC COLONIAL
ART MUSEUM, WHERE ANTONIO NARINO PROCLAIMED THE
RIGHTS OF THE MAN (LOS DERECHOS DEL HOMBRE) UPON HIS
INAUGURATION AS COLOMBIA'S FIRST PRESIDENT IN 1812.

2. MRS. CARTER'S NEWS CONFERENCE IN THE GILDED HALL OF
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A TYPICAL 17TH CENTURY BUILDING WAS THE FINAL EVENT IN A
BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE 24-HOUR VISIT TO THIS ANDEAN DEMOCRACY.
EARLIER TODAY, SHE MET WITH PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN
FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR.

3. THE FIRST LADY DELIVERED A LETTER TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ FROM
U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF ISSUES

WITH THE COLOMBIAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS, AMERICANS JAILED IN COLOMBA, NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION, COFFE PRICES, THE PANAMA CANAL SITUATION AND THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN THE HEMISPHERE.

4. MRS. CARTER TOLD JOURNALISTS HER CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS "VERY VALUABLE TO BOTH COUNTRIES" IN THAT IT "OPENED UP DIALOGUE ON MUTUAL PROBLEMS". SHE SAID SHE OUTLINED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY FOR PRESIDENT LOPEZ.

5. PRONOUNCING HERSELF SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT TO COLOMBIA --"A VERY GOOD VISIT"--MRS. CARTER ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS. SHE EXPLAINED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND ON ABORTION IN TERMS OF A BROAD INTERPRETATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND "THE FREEDOM TO SATISFY BASIC HUMAN NEEDS."

6. SHE SAID PRESIDENT LOPEZ PROMISED THAT COLOMBIAN COURTS WOULD WORK AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO DISPOSE OF ANY PENDING CASES INVOLVING JAILED AMERICAS. APPROXIMATELY 60 AMERICANS ARE CURRENTLY INCARCERATED HERE, MOST OF THEM ON NARCOTICS RELATED CHARGES.

7 ON THE COMPLEX PROBLEM OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE U.S., MRS. CARTER COMMENTED ON THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS. FINALLY, SHE SAID HER TRIP UNDERSCORES THE FACT THAT WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE ARE MOVING FROM TRADITIONAL WIFE AND MOTHER ROLES INTO MORE SUBSTANTIVE AREAS, UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH AS GOVERNMENT, POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY.

8. UPON HER ARRIVAL HERE THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MRS. CARTER STRESSED THAT THE U.S. AND COLOMBIA SHARE A RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES. SHE REITERATED THOSE VALUES AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY DURING HER VISIT HERE.

9. MRS. CARTER BEGAN TODAY WITH A VISIT TO THE LOCAL TRAINING CENTER OF THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL (SERVICIO NACIONAL DE APRENDIZAJE - SENA), WHERE COLOMBIANS RECEIVE PRACTICAL, TECHNICAL TRAINING IN TRADES RANGING FROM AGRICULTURE AND AUTO MECHANICS TO HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM. MRS. AND SENA DIRECTOR EDUARDO GAITAN DURAN TOURED ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND COBBLES SHOPS, WHERE THEY STOPPED TO CHAT WITH THE TRAINEES AND TO EXAMINE THEIR WORK.

10. GAITAN POINTED OUT THAT 44 PERCENT OF SENA'S 529,000 TRAINEES IN 1976 CAME FROM LOW INCOME GROUPS AND ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE SELF-HELP PROGRAM THROUGH A TWO-

MILLION-DOLLAR LOAN AND \$120,000 GRANT FROM THE U.A. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) FOR EXPANSION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SMALL FARMERS THOUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. GAITAN SAID SENA FILLS A BASIC HUMAN NEED, "THE RIGHT TO WORK AND TO RECEIVE AN ADEQUATE SALARY."

11. MRS. CARTER SPOKE BRIEFLY IN SPANISH AND WROTE "MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY" (UCHAS GRACIAS POR SU HOSPITALIDAD), ALSO IN SPANISH, IN THE INSTITUTE'S GUEST BOOK. ALSO SIGNING WERE TERENCE TODMAN, ASSITANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERAMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND MRS. GRACE VANCE, WIFE OF SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, WHO ARE MENBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY ON THIS SEVEN NATION TOUR OF GOODWILL AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

12. COLOMBIA FOLLOWED JAMAICA, COSTA RICA, ECUARDO, PERU AND BRAZIL ON THE FIRST LADY'S ITINERARY. FOLLOWING HER NEWS CONFERENCE HERE, SHE AND HER PARTY DEPARTED FOT EH FINAL STOP AT CARACAS, UNCLASSIFIED

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VENEZUELA.

13. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN AMPLE AND FAVORABLE. BOGOTA'S LEADING DAILES, TIEMP AND ESPECTADOR, BOTH PUBLISHED HEADLINES ECHOING MRS. CARTER'S DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE AND THE WORLD. TIEMPO'S FRONT-PAGE STORY, BY FORMER COLOMBIAN DIPLOMATIC GABRIEL GUTIERREZ, PRAISED THE FIRST LADY'S PERSONAL WARMTH AND HER EARY, INFORMAL DIPLOMATIC STYLE. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AN ESPECTADOR REPORTER, TODMAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "WAHT'S GOOD FOR LATIN AMRICA IS GOOD FOR THE U.S." (LO QUE ES BUENO PARA LATINOAMERICA ES BUENO PARA E.U.)

14. ARRIVING AT BOGOTA'S ELDORADO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THURSDAY AFTERNOON ON THE CORPUS CHRISTI HOLIDAY, MRS. CARTER WENT TO THE CENTRO COLOMBO AMERICANO, A BINATIONAL CULTURAL AND ENGLISH-TEACHING INSTITUE, WHERE SHE PLANTED A TREE IN COMMEMORATION OF LAST YEAR'S U.S. BICENTENNIAL AND GREETED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESIDENT IN BOGOTA. FROM THERE SHE WENT TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FOR AN INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN AND COLOMBIAN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES. AT BOTH STOPS, SHE MENTIONED HER PREVIOUS VISIT TO BOGOTA WITH A GEORGIA TRADE MISSION IN 1972, TRIED OUT HER SPANISH AND JOKED ABOUT HER CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROFICIENCY IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

15. FRIDAY EVENING, MRS. CARTER ATTENDED A RECEPTION IN HER HONOR OFFERED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE (PALACIO DE SAN CARLOS) BY COLOMBIA'S FIRST LADY, DONA CECILIA CABALLERO DE LOPEZ, WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED MRS. CARTER TO THE AIRPORT TODAY. GILMORE

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